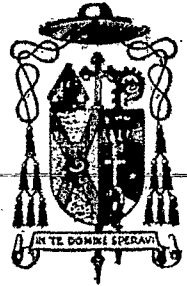


An Invitation For a Blessing



His Excellency, Bishop Kearney will receive visitors at his home, 947 East Avenue, Rochester, Sunday, January 3rd, from 2 to 5 p.m., to confer his blessing for the New Year.

The Catholic COURIER

Journal

76th Year ROCHESTER, N.Y., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1964

Last Week's Paid Circulation 66,839

Price 15 Cents

Clergy to Greet Bishop Kearney On New Year's

Priests of the Rochester Diocese will visit Bishop Kearney at his home, 947 East Ave., Rochester, on Friday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day, from 2 to 5 p.m., to extend their greetings to him for the new year.

The "open house" for the clergy is a custom inaugurated by the Bishop when the first came to the Diocese 27 years ago. The open house for the laity will be held Sunday, Jan. 3, also from 2 to 5 p.m.

A Month of Mass in New Format

The Catholic Church's new English format in worship marks its "monthaversary" this Sunday.

Reaction has varied from enthusiastic acceptance to outspoken criticism of it.

A casual check in several parishes indicates the vast majority of Catholics in the Rochester Diocese like the change from Latin to English, admit the half-and-half arrangement is confusing and are anxious for the final revision called for by the Vatican Council.

The Courier survey did show, however, there is no clear-cut division of opinion on the basis of age or educational background. As a matter of fact, older people seem to favor the change more than younger people.

One of the most dramatic settings for the new way of worship is at St. John the Evangelist Church at 2400 Ridge Road West in the Town of Greece. Designed to meet present and still-to-come changes, the soaring new structure brings a thousand people as close to the altar as did the 300-capacity old church edifice.

At least 1200 people attended noon Mass Sunday and took part in the rite by singing Christmas hymns at the start of the Mass, at the offertory and at the end of Mass, and by making the responses to the priest at the altar.

Close to a thousand received Holy Communion — an obvious result of the recently reduced fasting time from three hours to one hour.

In other parishes, similar gains in both vocal participation and reception of Communion have been reported.

WHEN WILL the next changes come?

Some will go into effect by March 7. These will simplify the ceremonies of the Mass prior to the offertory to permit the priest to conduct that portion of the rite anywhere in the sanctuary where he can be best seen and heard, and not necessarily at the altar.

An overall revision is now being worked out in Rome. Australian Archbishop Guilford Young, a member of the revising committee, told the Catholic News Service this week work is now "well advanced on rewriting the missal."

He said present members of the committee are about evenly divided between those who want to restore the simplicity of the early Church and those seeking to adapt the Mass to the 20th century.

"All recognize the value of tradition, but the difficulty is to make sure that in holding on to inherited values, such in content, we do not slip imperceptibly into archaism."

On the other hand in recognizing the immunities and actuality of the 20th century, we must not fail to give due place to tradition. We cannot compose a Mass as if it had never been celebrated before," he said.

Liturgy Expert Named to Head Bishops' Agency

Washington (CNS) — Father Frederick R. McManus, president of the national Liturgical Conference, has been named director of the new secretariat of the U.S. bishops' commission on the Liturgical Apostolate.

Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, chairman of the commission, announced the appointment and said the secretariat will open early in January in the headquarters here of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The new secretariat will function as an instrument of the bishops' liturgical commission. It will prepare materials for the commission to be sent to the U.S. bishops.



Pope at Christmas Mass

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI raises paten with the bread as he celebrates Christmas Mass for thousands of faithful in St. Peter's Basilica. In his sermon, he urged mankind to restore the "authentic spiritual value" to Christmas. The Mass in the huge basilica was the third offered by the pontiff on Christmas. He said a Christmas Eve Mass in the Sistine Chapel for members of the diplomat corps and their families. Early on Christmas Day, the Pope visited a Rome suburb where he officiated at a Mass in the Church of St. Raphael the Archangel. Later in the day he gave his traditional blessing, "Urbi et Orbi."

Review of 1964

Year of Dramatic Gestures

By Religious News Service

One of religion's most dynamic and momentous years of the century, 1964 saw a surprising ecumenism, marked by new and often dramatic gestures of inter-Church goodwill.

The Roman Catholic Church moved decisively into aggrandizement as the Second Vatican Council wound up its third session in November. It was a time also when religious spotlights were focused on some of the great social and moral challenges of the modern age.

In the United States, where racism was the paramount issue of the year, religious forces — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish

— threw massive support behind the Civil Rights Act that was signed by President Johnson on July 2.

Two other issues preempting worldwide attention during the year were religious liberty and Christian-Jewish relations. Sharp disappointment was voiced by both Catholic and Protestant leaders when Vatican II deferred action for "lack of time" on an epochal religious freedom declaration that had won the support of a majority of the Council.

Approved by Vatican II in a preliminary vote, another historic declaration absolving the Jewish people of guilt in Christ's crucifixion and roundly condemning anti-Semitism was warmly hailed in Jewish circles, but bitterly denounced in the Moslem countries as a political, pro-Israel, anti-Arab document — charges Vatican authorities promptly denied, stressing that the document was purely religious in character and intent.

Other main topics in the religious arena were world poverty (a challenge which continued to gain high priority on church agendas); birth control (a subject that took on new dimensions as prominent Catholic scholars urged re-examination of the Church's theological teaching on the matter); and disarmament (urged in important Catholic and Protestant pronouncements as the number of nations with nuclear know-how already totaled 40, among them Red-China).

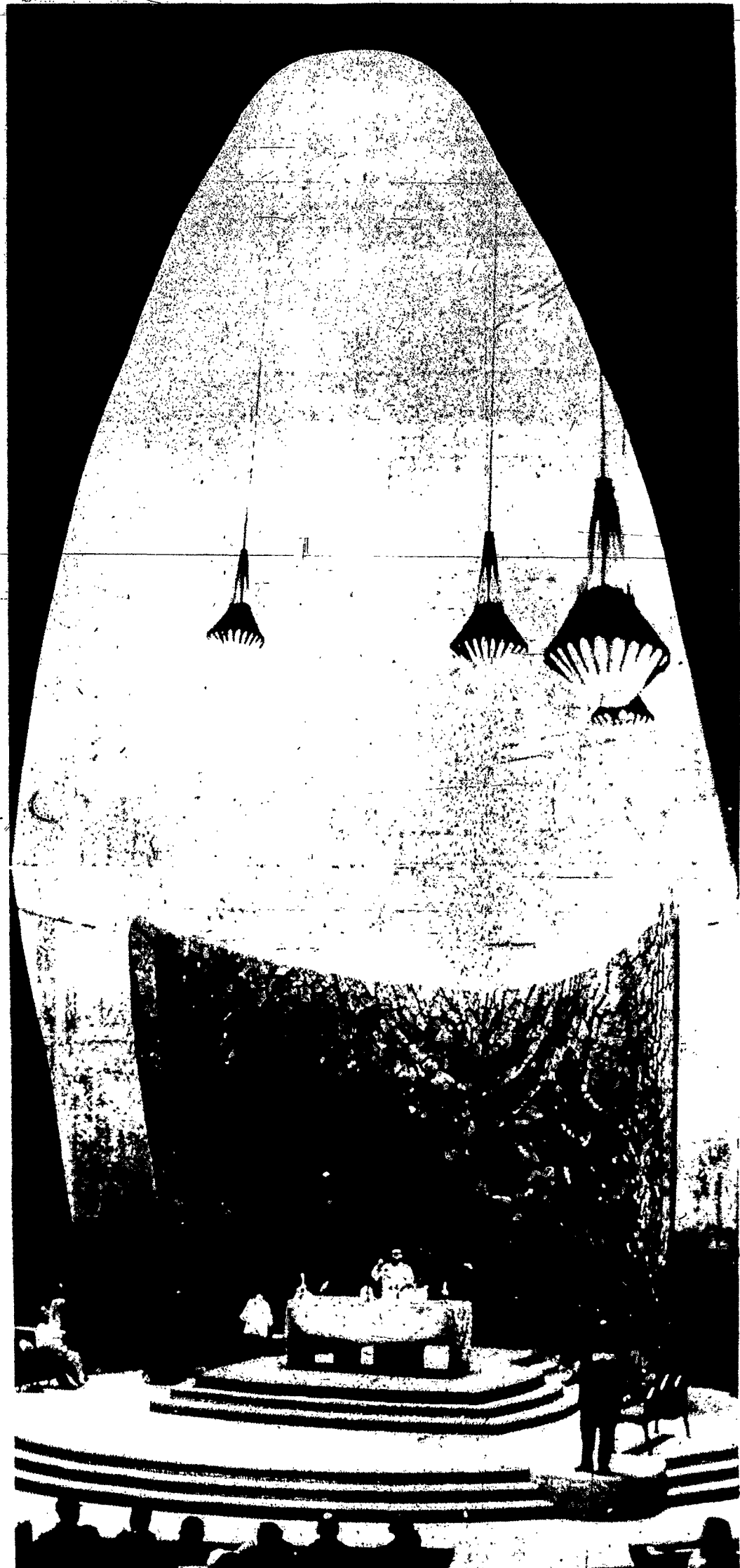
In the United States, another paramount issue involved pray-

er and Bible reading in the public schools. A proposed constitutional amendment to override the Supreme Court ruling in 1963 barring such practices — the so-called Becker amendment, named for its author, Rep. Frank Becker (R-N.Y.) — remained stymied in committee after most major denominations had opposed it as an abridgment of the First Amendment which guarantees religious freedom. Meanwhile educators and churchmen studied ways and means in which religion might be handled objectively — as the Supreme Court indicated was permissible — in the public classrooms.

On the international plane, shocked reactions were provoked around the world during the closing weeks of the year by the savage murders of thousands of Congolese and white hostages — including many Protestant and Catholic missionaries (nuns among them) — by Communist-backed rebels in the Congo. In October, a Kremlin shake-up that ousted "liberal" Premier Nikita Khrushchev stirred uneasy speculation over possible new anti-religious repercussions within the Soviet orbit, where intensified atheistic propaganda continued to be a major threat.

For Catholics everywhere, the year was marked by the introduction of liturgical reforms — involving principally more active lay participation in the Mass — which were approved by Vatican II at its second session in 1963. Pope Paul meanwhile made world headlines by becoming the first reigning pope.

(Continued from Page 2)



New St. John's sanctuary soars skyward. Father William Hart of St. Bernard's Seminary is celebrant of Mass as choir director Louis Ugiro leads congregation in singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" at offertory time. The new church in Town of Greece seats a thousand people close to altar so all can see and hear rites easily. Other pictures on page two.

Radio Rosary, Holy Hour On New Year's Eve

Bishop Kearney will lead in recitation of the Rosary on the "Family Rosary for Peace" broadcast by radio station WSAW of Rochester and WMBOM of Auburn on New Year's Eve at 7 p.m.

A Holy Hour will be broadcast by the same stations later the same evening, from 11:15 p.m. to 12:15 midnight.

The night's Rosary broadcast originates in the Rosary Chapel at St. Francis of Assisi parish center, Rochester, where a new organ has just been installed to provide musical accompaniment for prayers.

Bishop Spurs Christmas Rosary Gifts

Bishop Kearney has urged Catholics to give a Rosary as a Christmas gift. He said the gift of a Rosary is a beautiful and meaningful way to share the faith with family and friends. He encouraged the purchase of a Rosary for the poor and the sick.

High School Entry Tests Set for January 23rd

Applicants for Catholic high schools of the Rochester Diocese will take their entry tests Saturday, Jan. 23, at 9 a.m. Students are to bring their application forms and a copy of their high school transcript to the test.

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